

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 6, No. 27

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

July 16, 2004

## Controlled burns promote Station safety

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Last October San Diego experienced one of its worst fires ever. Over 10,000 acres of brush burned on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

In an effort to control any potential fires, the Miramar Fire Department has been conducting prescribed controlled burns on fuel breaks, which will help to change the permanence of the brush in East Miramar.

"The main purpose of the burns is to help keep any future fires under control," explained David Allen, assistant fire chief at MCAS Miramar. "There are too many human and natural factors involved to prevent a fire."

This year, the fire department is fighting fire with fire to decrease the likelihood of a future fire.

"In the past we used to use dozers to control the fires. But since the cedar fire burned through the brush, we can use a reduced amount of fire rather than crushing the brush to treat the fuel breaks, which removes more vegetation," said Allen, an Onsted, Mich., native.

When the fire department goes out to East Miramar they use hand-held firing devices that set fire to the chaparral. But they must follow certain guidelines when burning that are within a "prescription." Where the fire is applied depends on the weather, temperature, humidity, winds and

moisture in the vegetation. Once the fire is applied, it creates a collage of vegetation in the area.

The Miramar Fire Department's efforts help minimize the power of any potential fires while helping wildlife habitat and plant diversity.

San Diego residents can help their families and themselves by preparing for any prospective fires now.

Allen recommends some guidelines that should be followed, which could save property or even lives. If there is any brush within 100 feet of the property, it should be cleared immediately. Also, residents can plant fire resistant plants like an ice plant that can help guard against a fire. The building construction of property can also make a difference. Allen advises home and business owners to replace their roofs if they are not already fire-resistant.

If a fire does enter a house or building, the United States Fire Administration rec-

ommends planning ahead. The ideal way of exiting a burning building is through a door, however, if the escape way is hot, another exit should be attempted. Also, when trying to escape, staying low to the floor is safest. The administration suggests that families have a plan of action in case a situation does burn up.

According to the association, more

people die in fires than in hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and all other natural disasters combined. Proper planning could mean the difference between life and death.

The Miramar fire department is taking action now to control any fires in the future. To learn more about fire safety contact the Miramar Fire Department at 577-7783.



A fireman with the Miramar Fire Department uses drip torches filled with diesel and gas to burn the vegetation in East Miramar, which helps prevent future fires. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones.

## Marine Corps Times names Marine of the Year

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A Miramar Marine, Staff Sgt. Wade M. Davis, assistant combat crew chief, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165, was named the Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year during a ceremony in Washington July 8.

"A lot of great Marines were nominated for this award and I am just honored that I was recommended for it," said the Ogden, Utah, native. "I just do my job the best I can day to day."

Maj. Todd J. Oneto nominated Davis for the award and the Marine Corps Times committee picked Davis out of all the other proposals they received based on his achievements.

The "Marine of the Year" award began in 2001 as an award program to underline the accomplishments of exceptional servicemembers.

The 2004 award wanted to highlight servicemembers with heroism, patriotism and unselfish service to the country. One servicemember from each branch was selected for the honor.

Davis was selected for possessing all of the necessary qualities of an exceptional Marine.

Even though the esteemed award humbles Davis, his squadron agrees that there couldn't be a better Marine for the prestigious honor.

"He's the kind of Marine you can count on to make the right call every time and he trains his Marines likewise," said 1st Lt. Timothy E. Kent, adjutant, HMM-

165. "He maintains very high standards with his constant professionalism and he expects nothing less from everyone around him. He inspires others to be like him."

One of the most influential things that Davis has done for his squadron has been mentoring Marines to do their best.

"He demands and expects the best out of everyone he teaches," explained Sgt. Brian Blakely, CH-46 crew chief with HMM-165 and a Dayton, Ohio, native. "He gives 110 percent all of the time and if you don't give 100 percent he'll let you know."

Not only does Davis make an impact on his squadron at the air station, but on deployments as well. He

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### Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°  
Today



74°/58°  
Saturday



74°/57°  
Sunday

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lets Marines  
fly high**



Page 6



# Marines to see medals for deployments

Story by Sgt. Colin Wyers

*IMEF Combat Correspondent*

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines' medals say a lot about them - where they've been, what they've done.

So what medals can Marines earn while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom? And what are the qualifications?

## Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal was established by President George W. Bush to recognize servicemembers deployed in Operation Enduring and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A Marine can only earn the award once, so no service stars are authorized. Marines engaged in combat against the enemy can be eligible for a battle star.

To be eligible, Marines must have deployed outside the United States in support of either operation for either 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, engaged the enemy in combat while deployed in support of either operation or medically evacuated while participating in the operation.

Being a member of an aircrew flying sorties into the area of eligibility counts toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

## An Iraq Campaign Medal?

President Bush signed into a law a bill passed by Congress authorizing separate campaign medals for service in the Iraqi and Afghan theaters. The Department of Defense has not yet issued guidance on these awards, however.

## Enemy action

The Combat Action Ribbon is awarded to Marines and sailors who engage in a firefight or other combat action and whose performance is satisfactory.

The Marine does not necessarily need to return fire - if a convoy is attacked and a humvee driver maneuvers his vehicle out of the kill zone, he could be eligible.

For those taking indirect fire,

such as rockets and mortars, only those who actively participate in retaliatory or offensive operations are eligible.

To be eligible for the Purple Heart, a servicemember must have sustained wounds requiring medical treatment as a result of enemy action, including small arms fire, indirect fire, enemy mines and vehicle accidents caused by enemy fire.

Those who rate the Purple Heart do not necessarily rate the Combat Action Ribbon, and vice versa.

## Serving Overseas

The Sea Service Deployment Ribbon is for Marines and Sailors serving in the Fleet Marine Force

who have spent 90 consecutive days deployed.

For those Marines supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the requirement that a Marine spend a year with the unit deployed is waived. The award can only be received once per deployment.

For those Marines and Sailors who deployed and are not part of a Fleet Marine Force unit, they may be eligible for the Overseas Service Ribbon.

For more information on Marine Corps medals, ribbons or awards log on to the Headquarters Marine Corps Awards Branch homepage at <https://kuwait.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mm/mma/awards.nsf>.

# Navy develops new surgical system

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Devin Wright

*Navy Region Hawaii Journalist*

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — The amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) held an open house July 1 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, displaying a new shipboard surgical system developed to support Sailors and Marines during maritime interdictions.

"The purpose was to disseminate the knowledge," said Lt. Cmdr. George Linville, command amphibious task force surgeon, shipboard surgeon system team leader and trauma surgeon for Fleet Surgical Team 9. "This is a brand new baby. Nobody knows about this."

The Naval Health Research Center developed the concept of a shipboard surgical team in January after Navy Capt. Chris Hunter, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet surgeon, realized that Sailors and Marines aboard smaller ships were going to be taking casualties during maritime interdictions, shipboard seizures and other operations.

"We are out there to support our own Sailors and Soldiers who take casualties," said Linville. "The goal is to provide surgical support to our Sailors and Marines who are involved in these maritime interdictions."

The shipboard surgical team will deploy via an MH-60 helicopter from a big deck ship to a smaller ship within the expeditionary strike group. Linville said with split operations, ships within an ESG would be scattered in many different places.

The team constructs a small-scale operating room within the mess decks of a smaller ship, us-

ing an authorized minimal medical allowance list (or their equipment) designed by the Naval Health Research Center to support operations in small spaces.

Linville said the biggest hurdle was designing a required operational facility.

"The biggest hurdle was overcoming the austere environment into which we were set," he said. "We're taking capability into an environment that's not supportive of that capability."

For example, the shipboard surgical team uses a five-pound anesthesia machine as opposed to a 600-pound machine that is used on a big deck ship.

In the initial tests, the team determined that the maximum distance they could deploy would be about 100 miles. However, the helicopter would have to refuel aboard the smaller ship, thereby losing valuable time.

Representatives from the United States, Canada, Chile, Australia, South Korea and Japan all came to view the new system, hoping that the information might help out their ships as well.

"It's important that our allies also understand that we have this capability and we can support their ships and Sailors surgically," said Linville. "When you have such a complex operation in its infancy, we have to keep our mind open, be flexible and know that we are going to change our minds about various things to improve upon what we have developed."

Although the surgical system is fully operational, Linville said various tests would be implemented over the next year to ensure the team reaches its maximum capabilities.

## MIRAMARKS

"Should there be a separate campaign medal for tours in Iraq?"



**PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS DENNIS B. GENITA**

Store Keeper  
USS Nimitz

"They should be separate, because there are people who go to combat and they should get recognized for that."

**LANCE CPL. MICHAEL LEE**

Radio Operator  
MWSS-373

"It's a totally different war. Some people are opposed to it, others aren't. It's almost like two different conflicts. Some support the global war on terrorism but not the war in Iraq."



**CPL. KEVIN PARKER**

Flightline Equipment Mechanic  
VMFA-134

"Yes, I think it would be good to distinguish them. You might have fought in two different wartime situations."



## FLIGHT JACKET

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# Afghanistan river crossing reminiscent of an earlier era

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks

22nd MEU Combat Correspondent

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RIPLEY, Afghanistan — As the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) recently pushed deep into central Afghanistan’s rugged mountains in pursuit of Taliban insurgents, a deep, fast-moving river presented a unique planning challenge.

Since arriving in Afghanistan nearly three months ago, the MEU has had to deal with narrow mountain passes, crumbling trailways, and broken and treacherous roads, but the river was something new altogether.

A careful study of the terrain indicated the river had to be crossed, and while the Humvees and seven-ton trucks of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the MEU’s ground combat element, could ford the river with ease in numerous locations, the task force’s Afghan Militia Force allies could not.

Traveling on Toyota Hi-Lux pickups, the AMF forces couldn’t traverse the river on their own and with no usable bridges within a reasonable distance, the only alternative fell to a locally-operated ferry boat service.

The two ferry boats, attached to ropes spanning the river, were pulled across by teenage Afghan boys who were undoubtedly the ferry service owner’s sons.

With practiced ease, they sped across the river and supervised the loading of the AMF trucks and quickly began shuttling the vehicles across in several waves.

Other than in the movies, it was a sight the nearly 200 Marines and Sailors had probably never seen before.

“It reminds me of ‘The Outlaw Josey Wales’,” yelled out Warrant Officer Oscar Chaney from mid-river, referring to the classic Clint Eastwood movie. Chaney is BLT 1/6’s Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical warfare officer and was pulling double duty as a battalion advisor to the AMF advisor. “I’m just waiting for a sniper to shoot the rope and send us floating down the river.”

Meanwhile, about a quarter mile down the river, the approximately 20 Marine Humvees of the operation were plunging through the river without a hitch.

Shown by a local Afghan farmer the best way across the river, the first vehicle had deposited Maj. Brian Christmas, BLT 1/6’s operations officer, on the far shore where he guided the rest of the convoy onto dry land. On the opposite bank, 1st Lt. Joshua Cavan, the battalion adjutant, gave each Humvee driver a quick orientation on the route across.

While the crossing was underway, Marine infantrymen from the Combined Anti-Armor Team and BLT 1/6’s Charlie Company provided ground security while a pair of Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters made continuous low passes over the river and surrounding terrain.

“That wasn’t as bad as I thought, we made it through with no problems” said Sgt. Dan Trackwell, of Klamath Falls, Ore., vehicle commander and driver for Light Horse 1/6, one of the machine gun-armed CAAT Humvees. In anticipation of the crossing, the vehicles had been outfitted with their fording kits, and even though the water topped the Humvees’ doors, the kits proved unnecessary.



Maj. Brian Christmas, operations officer for Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the ground combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), guides Humvees from his unit onto the bank of a river in south-central Afghanistan. Further down the river, Afghan Militia Force trucks were carried across in ferry boats. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Keith a. Milks*

AD

*So I was thinkin' ...*

## Change: Start with yourself

Commentary by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Change is like an evolving plant. It starts with the seeds then some dirt, sunshine, water and love is added to aid in its growth.

We all go through alterations and each transformation, whether for better or worse, adds to our own identity and personality. However, if you want someone or something to change, you have to start with yourself.

“If you believe in peace, act peacefully; if you believe in love, acting lovingly; if you believe every which way, then act every which way, that’s perfectly valid- but don’t go out trying to sell your beliefs to the system. You end up contradicting what you profess to believe in, and you set a bum example. If you want to change the world, change yourself,” said Tim Robbins in his novel, “Still Life with Woodpecker.”

Robbins’ theory relates well to one of the nine Marine Corps leadership principles, “lead by example.”

If you are a leader for instance, you must act in a manner that you would like your disciples to follow.

Do you have that one motivated mentor in your life that you would lay your own life on the line for? You probably would not be willing to risk your soul if he or she would not do the same for you.

Likewise, if you want anyone to follow you and your beliefs, you have to set the example, leader or not.

Case in point, if you cannot tolerate how heartless some people seem at times, the best way to make a difference is to be kind to every-one that you know and will meet.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” Gandhi was a very honest and sincere man and his followers sought to be the same way because they re-spected him.

Now, if you are a leader and you are rude to those beneath you, do you really think that they would want to strive to be callous too? Would you like someone to treat you that way?

Sure, you might think that you are doing it for his or her own good, but before you make that next command think to yourself, “How

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Send your letters or opinions to the Flight Jacket editor. Include your name, rank and unit, and send to: [mcmeence@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:mcmeence@miramar.usmc.mil).

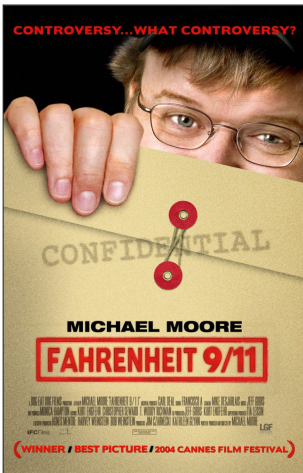
# ‘Fahrenheit 9/11’ ignites political controversy

Review by Cpl. Paul Leicht

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

★★★★

Whatever your political affiliations or biases, Michael Moore’s thought provoking “Fahrenheit 9/11” is worth seeing regardless of one’s taste in films or political bent. Even if you find yourself disagreeing with his message or disapproving of



his guerilla-style filmmaking, it is an entertaining case of art imitating life while purporting to be journalism.

This uniquely American film is Moore’s take on the presidential election of 2000 and the United States following the attacks of 9/11, and it is never boring.

The main cast of characters, all playing themselves, is familiar. President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, Al Gore, Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi royal family, Taliban leaders, and many other media, government and entertainment personalities. Even Brittany Spears and Ricky Martin make appearances.

More powerful though, and also playing themselves, are the supporting cast of American servicemembers, their families and the occasionally humorous personalities from rural America that Moore has a wonderful knack for finding. It is their observations and emotions that pull at your heart and breathe the life into this sometimes amusingly familiar portrait of dark comedy wrapped in tragedy.

Moore is indeed talented. He weaves his fictional tale using his own video and archived news footage, sometimes out of context, with his man-on-the-street perspective to create a Hollywood fantasy that resembles our real world. In ways of impact and method versus style, “Fahrenheit 9/11” reminded me of Oliver Stone’s film “JFK.”

“Fahrenheit 9/11” would have us believe that George Bush stole the 2000 election from the supposedly legitimate winner Al Gore, the Bush administration bungled terrorist attack warnings just before 9/11 and then used the attack as a pretext for waging a preplanned war in Iraq to benefit various defense conglomerates, oil companies and other major corporations. This sounds a lot like one of those “vast right wing conspiracy” theories we so often hear about.

Moore does present many interesting facts throughout the film such as the extent of Saudi investment in

America, the flight of the Bin Laden family from the U.S. immediately after 9/11 and the fact that not a single U.S. senator or congressman has an enlisted son or daughter serving in Iraq. With a Marine reluctant to return to Iraq at his side, Moore’s attempt to recruit the children of Congress on the steps of the Capitol is by far one of the funniest scenes on screen.

Many will likely reject Moore’s thesis that oil money and geopolitics drove the Iraq war, rather than the fear of weapons of mass destruction or liberating the Iraqi people from a dictatorial, genocidal regime. He also suggests that the American homeland is anything but secure because a single part-time state trooper guards a quiet section of the Oregon coastline and we can bring two lighters, or four books of matches, on commercial flights.

But you do not have to share his views to enjoy the film or even be entertained by it. Several audience members and myself laughed throughout the film. Moore’s political commentary on the motivations behind the war in Iraq will spark a debate and if it influences our thoughts on current events, then even as a work of art it has accomplished something.

The film does have some violent and disturbing images, particularly those of wounded American Marines and Soldiers lying limbless in military recovery hospitals or bloodied by explosions on the streets of Baghdad.

To date “Fahrenheit 9/11” has made more than \$11 million, just behind “King Arthur” according to box office scores. Now I wonder what percentage of that Moore plans to send to the unemployed potential recruits in Flint, Mich., or other people in his film like Lila Lipscomb who lost a loved one serving in Iraq?

Somewhere in between Moore’s media vision and what we see coming out of Washington is the real truth about Iraq and the war on terror. Perhaps one simply needs to go to Iraq to witness first hand and find out the truth. To better document the truth Moore himself could have flown to Iraq to shoot footage for the film rather than relying on edited archival footage or third-person amateur video.

Fortunately for Moore and those who share his agenda, the First Amendment exists so that people can make films like this one. But does “Fahrenheit 9/11” actually damage America? Does the film embody or trample on the ideals and spirit that we cherish? Does it merely compound the psychological fears that our nation suffers from in the wake of 9/11? That is for audiences to decide.

To say that people should boycott the film would be one step away from book burnings. Ironically, the title of the film is in reference to an Orwellian novel by Ray Bradbury titled “Fahrenheit 451” which is the temperature at which book paper burns.

See Moore’s latest political manifesto for the work of entertainment art that it is and make up your own mind.

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# Twice recruited: Transitioning Marines in demand from NYPD



Gunnery Sgt. Alexander P. Kitsakos, New York Police Department military liaison, speaks with prospective test takers at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., about the life of an NYPD police officer. Photo by Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint

Story by Cpl. T.D. Smith

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Being a Marine is an exciting experience all its own, but it is a privilege that comes with benefits. Often when military personnel transition out of enlisted and officer service they are in high demand by other agencies.

The reputation that accompanies the title Marine is founded through promotion of education, training, and discipline. These assets make Marines attractive to companies and especially police departments.

What makes Marines a desirable commodity to a police force is, “Leadership and communication skills, understanding of the chain of command and a command presence,” said Gil Florez, recruiting officer San Diego Police Department. He said, “Marines are known for being squared away. The way they wear the uniform (well). There is a difference when an officer steps out of a car and they look raggedy and when they step out looking good in the uniform and with a strong command presence. The (perpetrator) is more likely to think I can (defeat) the raggedy looking officer.”

Other desirable aspects of military personnel are, “their ability to multi-task and their superior communication skills. These are things we can teach other new

officers, but it is something you already find in Marines and other former military personnel,” said Florez.

New York Police Department recently recruited Marines aboard Miramar to take a test at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Uniformed police recruiters waited outside the Main Exchange to inform Marines and Sailors of the opportunity to embark on a new carrier as one of New York’s finest. The test was the first step in a series required to complete the joining process.

New York is not the only police department looking for the few and proud entering the civilian workforce. The Los Angeles Police Department and the San Diego Police Department have recruiters that specialize in signing up former Marines. While the recruiters are geared to scout out military talent, they are not there to coddle Marines or Sailors through the process. The Police Department is an equal opportunity employer, just as the military is, and all screening and testing is implemented in the same manner for everyone. Personnel are hired based on their performance.

The SDPD endeavors a little further in their recruitment. They are incorporated into the transition assistance program at Camp Pendleton and Marine Re-

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# Awareness can lower rising rape statistics

Story by Anna Meade

Family Services Counseling Center Victim Advocate

Rape is a subject most people would prefer not to discuss openly. However, the cost of ignoring this crime and failing to organize a response puts women at a greater risk than they already are.

According to the National Institute of Justice, one million American women are rape victims each year.

The FBI estimates that one in three women will be sexually

**It is estimated that one in three women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime, with 75 percent of those assaults being committed by an acquaintance of the victim.**

**FBI**

assaulted in her lifetime, with 75 percents of those assaults being committed by an acquaintance of the victim.

The American Medical Association reports that 61 percent of rape victims are under the age of 18.

What is the impact of this devastating crime on a woman? Typically, the victim finds herself in a state of shock, disbelief, and embarrassment. She might even feel guilt and anger, while at the same time blaming herself for the attack.

After a few hours or days, the victim may have trouble sleeping, feel anxious and irritable, experience crying spells, and be unable or unwilling to engage in sexual relations.

As weeks pass, the woman may have an abiding fear, and may even relive the trauma. The victim may begin to doubt whether she will ever return to normal, and contrary to what

most people think, the more time passes without help, the less likely it is that she will be able to put this trauma behind her.

About two months after a severe rape, the woman may feel extreme feelings such as fear of crowds, or being alone, or of getting in a car or an elevator.

She continues to have difficulty with her sexual relations, and the rage and frustration grow. The victim begins to sink into a depression and withdraw from her normal social contacts.

If the woman seeks and accepts pro-

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# Sky is the limit with Miramar Flyer's Club

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

If anyone is wondering who is flying model airplanes over the fire-scarred hills of East Miramar on weekday afternoons and the weekends, they are catching a glimpse of the Miramar Radio Control Flyers' Club.

With more than 55 members, the Marine Corps Community Services funded club is a non-profit, mutual-benefit association affiliated with the National Academy of Model Aeronautics. Their purpose is to promote model building and flying as a recreational pastime.

"The club also promotes interest in all areas of aviation," said club president Frank Lewis. "Most Marines probably do not even know about the club, but there are Marines out there who really enjoy this sort of hobby."

Eligibility includes active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents, military reservists and all Department of Defense employees with access to Miramar, added Lewis.

"This club is open to experienced flyers and a great way for beginners to learn all the facets of flying remote control planes before going out and spending a lot of money on a model," said club secretary Jim McNerney. "For people new to the club and the hobby, we usually help them learn to fly using our trainer models so they can learn the basics of flying a remote control airplane."

McNerney, a former military pilot, said that beginners and kids used to video games with a different perspective are generally the better flyers.

"Pilots sometimes take longer to get used to flying remote control planes because



**Frank Lewis, president of the Miramar Radio Flyer's Club, prepares his model P-51D Mustang for a short afternoon flight at the club's airfield location on East Miramar May 27. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht**

they are used to being in the cockpit versus flying a craft from the ground," said McNerney. "It typically takes someone six to 20 sessions to get the knack, but like learning to ride a bike or anything else, frequency is the key. We also have a detailed training syllabus that helps flyers learn the basic knowledge and skills needed to finish the training course."

The flying field is located on East Miramar near the Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center approximately 500 yards east of I-15 on Pomerado Road.

Club members can fly seven days a week from

sunrise to sunset, however, student pilots can only fly with the direct supervision of a club instructor.

"In addition to helping new members learn to fly, we also assist them with

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## 'Tigers' fly colors high in Iraq

AL ASAD, Iraq — Shortly after arriving here, the leathernecks of Marine Attack Squadron 542, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, discovered the need for a flagpole in order to properly display the national colors. Constructing a makeshift mast from materials they obtained, as well as modifying it to fly the American flag, the Marines lifted the pole to the roof of their headquarters building on June 28, where it was raised and permanently stationed. (From left to right) Lance Cpl. Joel Ellis, a 19-year-old ordnance technician from Katy, Texas, Lance Cpl. Boone Sitman, a 20-year-old air frames technician from Greensburg, La., Cpl. Joshua M. Hines, a 20-year-old Logistics Embarkation Specialist from Colorado Springs, Colo., and Lance Cpl. Jared Kinnaman, a 20-year-old ordnance technician from Bridgewater, N.J., saw the flag raising through from conception to completion. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Rainey

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# Reserve truckers, grunts form bond during OIF

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MWHS-3 Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Assigned a multitude of jobs and only a handful of Marines to complete the tasks, a detachment from Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, are up to the challenge here.

The motor transportation Marines provide vehicles, maintenance, and training for Company L, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, as well as participate in security operations alongside the infantry unit.

“We dispatch, drive and maintain all the vehicles the Marines of (Company L) use on a regular basis,” said Cpl. Art L. Fuller, logistics vehicle system operator, Truck Company, and 36-year-old Corry, Pa., native. “When these guys get the call (to accomplish a mission), no matter what time of the day or night, you’ll find us with them one way or another.”

The vehicle operators, whose reserve unit is based in Ebensburg, Pa., provide vehicle maintenance training to Company L Marines for the high mobility multi-wheeled vehicles so they can make repairs to vehicles when the Truck Company mechanics aren’t available.

“Whenever they’re having a problem with their HMMWV, we either fix it for them or teach them to fix it themselves,” said Fuller. “We (show them how to repair the vehicles) because we will not always be able to fix problems for them when the vehicles are out (on patrols and convoys).”

The common bond of serving in the Marine Corps Reserves shared by the two



**Marines from a detachment of Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Division, drive members of Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, on a convoy June 12. Photo by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III**

units allows for cohesion during work and training that might not normally occur in an active duty unit since truck drivers are usually tasked with one-time support instead of being attached to a unit for an extended time.

“(Company L) allows us to go on patrols with them and I think they appreciate the fact that we are reservists like them,” Fuller remarked. “Sometimes they even (invite) us to go out on firing ranges with them to shoot some of their (more sophisticated) weapons.”

One motor transportation operator doesn’t

feel that the separate military occupational specialties of the two units cause the typical division between grunts and Marines who are not a part of the infantry.

“We are always a part of what they do and they never separate us from the other Marines,” said Cpl. Sydney D. Shanfield, Truck Company. “It makes me feel like my section is part of their family.”

Shanfield believes the Company L Marines treat the truck drivers differently from the other units they come in contact with

because the Truck Company Marines pull their weight without relying on infantry personnel.

“We play an active role in safe guarding (their convoy) routes, patrolling and providing security for our own vehicles when we stop,” said the 20-year-old Hastings, Pa., native. “We don’t take any manpower from them. We man our own heavy guns on convoys and since every Marine is a rifleman, we help them with (supporting fire) when they need us.”

Staff Sgt. William B. Pulliam, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Truck Company, said the Company L and Truck Company Marines have other things in common besides their reserve status.

“These Marines know their jobs because they do them day in and day out,” said the 37-year-old Johnstown, Pa., native. “The (two groups) have outstanding leaders that have mission accomplishment as their main goal and they are doing an outstanding job (working together).”

1st Sgt. David P. Perry, first sergeant, Company L, shared why exactly the motor transportation Marines are needed and appreciated.

“On our convoy from Kuwait to Al Asad, we had to tow a 7-ton truck for quite a while,” said the 43-year-old Maryville, Tenn., native and senior enlisted Marine for Company L. “From the time we hooked up the truck to be towed until the next stop, the truck operators had the (broken) truck running. Despite having limited assets, they keep these vehicles running.”

“I don’t know how far we could have (traveled) without them,” Perry concluded.

AD



# Vietnam vet prepares for modern warfare

*Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 sergeant major returns to the front lines*

Story by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

With a new wave of Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments on the horizon for Marines here, many of them will be operating in combat zones for the first time.

However, one Marine, Sgt. Maj. Joseph Kundrat, will be walking the sands in Iraq in the same fashion he patrolled the jungles in Vietnam 37 years ago.

Although now being on the opposite end of the rank structure and equipped with modern military gear, the Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 sergeant major can still recall the initial training he received in 1967 when he joined the Marine Corps.

“When I went through boot camp it had been shortened from 12 weeks to eight weeks because of the big Vietnam push. After we graduated we were assigned to the Infantry Training Regiment in Camp Lejeune and then Staging Battalion in Camp Pendleton,” he said.

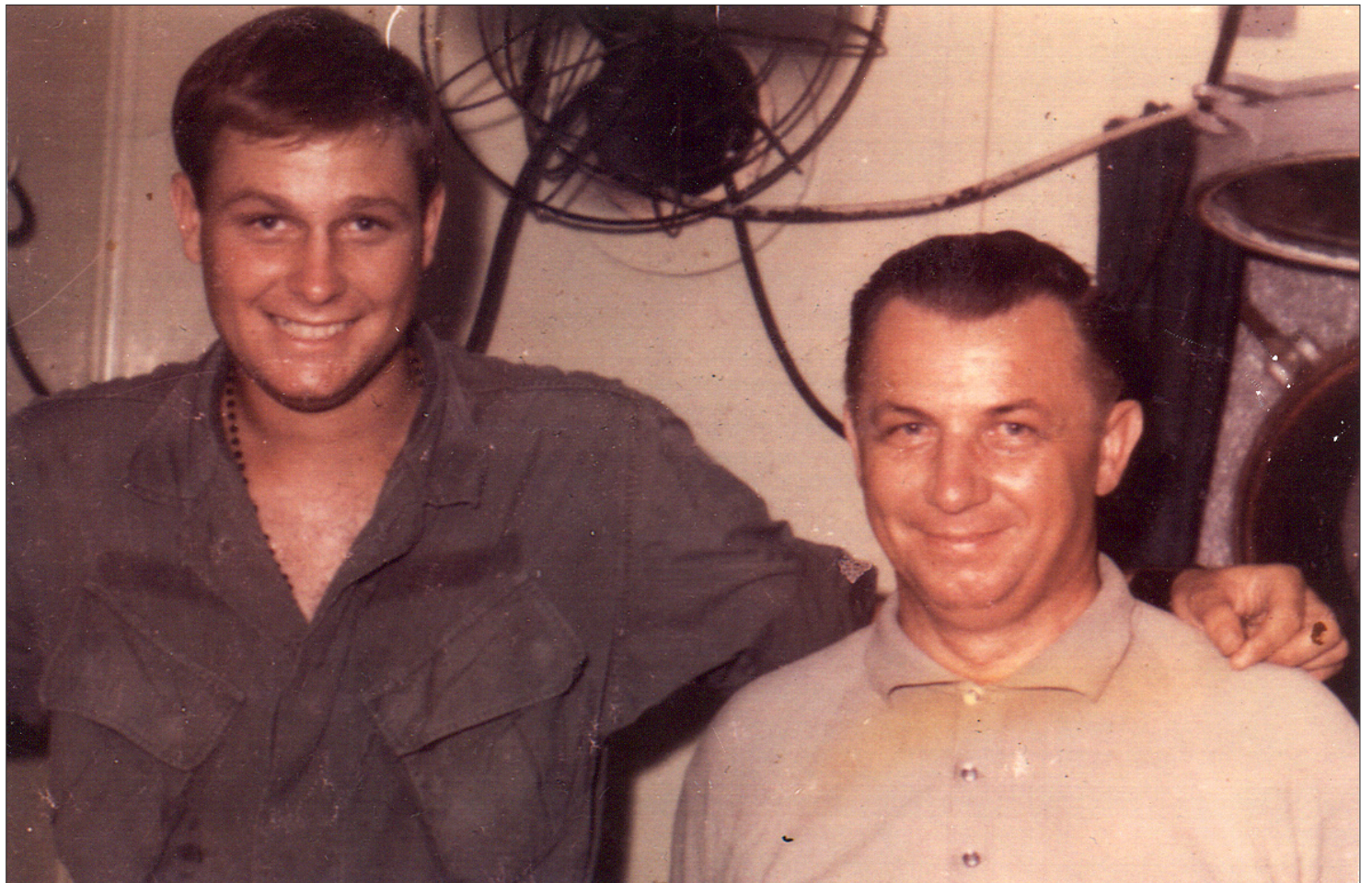
While in Staging Battalion, Kundrat was issued his first M-16 rifle, a much different machine than the M-14 he was issued in boot camp. Along with this new piece of gear Kundrat received his combat issue full of weakened, out of date World War II era gear.

“The flacks and helmets were so worn down that bullets and shrapnel would go right through them,” he said.

With gear in hand Kundrat deployed to Vietnam in 1967 to be a rifleman with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. After a year of combat duty in Vietnam, to include firefights in Khe Sahn, the Rock Pile and Dong Ha, he was medically evacuated with a case of malaria.

Kundrat left the fight as a corporal in 1968, and eventually the Marine Corps as a sergeant in 1970. After his discharge he served as a police officer in his hometown of Baltimore and was put into the Individual Ready Reserves.

After he completed his commitment to the IRR, Kundrat joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1981 where he served his normal reserve duty until recently when he was activated to



**Sgt. Maj. Joseph Kundrat, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3 sergeant major, spends some rare quality time with his father during the Vietnam War. Kundrat, a Baltimore native, was deployed to Vietnam with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment in 1967 and will soon deploy to Iraq in support of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing operations. Photo courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Joesph Kundrat.**

support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kundrat has seen changes in the Marine Corps one weekend at a time, and now when the Vietnam veteran steps onto the battle field he and his comrades will be clad in new interceptor flak jackets, kevlar helmets, M-16A2 service rifles and digital pattern camouflage – all a welcomed change.

“When the M-16 first came out they were having a lot of jamming problems with the ammunition,” Kundrat reflected. “Now we don’t have any problems like that and have the best gear and weapons out of any military in the world.”

With different gear and different weapons, Kundrat knows he will face an enemy much different from the Vietnamese while in Iraq.

“In North Vietnam it was just us and them out in the jungle – there wasn’t

anyone else around. Sometimes the enemy would lay for days right alongside the road waiting to ambush you, they were probably the best enemy force ever,” he said. “Now in Iraq there is a lot of guerilla warfare going on, much like there was in South Vietnam. The enemy now is very dedicated to their cause, and were brought up to hate Americans, but they are just as much soldiers as any other nation.”

With the amount of guerilla and suicide attacks that have happened since OIF, Kundrat stated his mission just as any great leader would.

“I just want to make sure that all my Marines comes back alive,” he said. “In Vietnam I learned that you can overcome anything, no matter how bad it gets. Everyone needs to just stay focused on the tasks they have.”



**37 years after joining the Marine Corps, Joseph Kundrat is pictured here as a sergeant major. Official Marine Corps Photo**

AD



# 101 Days of Summer

Below are the curent standings for the 101 days of Summer competition. For more information on the program contact Alisa Hertzler at 577-6283.

1st - VMFAT-101	875
2nd - MALS-11	810
3rd - MAG-46	750
4th - MALS-16	650
5th - MAG-16	300
6th - VMFA(AW)-121	300
7th - HMH-462	225
8th - MACG-38	200
9th - HMH-165	100
10th - Dental	0

Next chance for points will be the biathlon tomorrow. Earn points for the 101 Days of Summer by participating in the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Games will be held July 19-23 at the Semper Fit Center gymnasium from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per team and \$2 per person interested in participating in the Slam Dunk and Drug-Free Throw contests. Sign-up deadline is July 14. For more info contact Alisa Hertzler at 577-6283.

AD

## MOY

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flew over 100 combat sorties during Operation Iraqi Freedom, including operations in support of the release of Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch. He also arranged for the squadron’s aircrews to go through combat lifesaver training.

The extra training saved many lives, as it helped the 122 wounded personnel that the squadron evacuated receive better first aid and medical care.

“He is always one of the first Marines to volunteer for anything in the squadron,” mentioned Blakely.

## CHANGE

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would I feel if someone said or did this to me?”

Now if you are that private or lance corporal receiving orders that you don’t agree with, take Mary Engelbreit’s advice, “If you don’t like something change it; if you can’t change it, change the way you think about it.”

Engelbriet, one of the world’s most renowned greeting card artists, does not let life’s disappointments get her down

“He goes on every deployment and drops everything for the squadron.”

Davis explained that it is mandatory to set the example and if no one wants to do something, it is important to take the initiative and volunteer.

After his return from Iraq, Davis was chosen to be an augment instructor for the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., where he found out about the exalting news towards the end of March.

Davis is still modest about the whole thing. “I just lead by example and do my job everyday the best I can.”

and if she cannot change a situation she makes the best of it.

In the Marine Corps, things are constantly changing. Which is why it is important that everyone is “semper gumby” for his or her own happiness. If you receive a command, there might be nothing you can do to change things. If that is the case, change your attitude.

Bottom line, if you want to see things transform; simply change one thing, yourself. If you do that, others will follow and you will in fact change a lot of things.

## NYPD

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cruit Depot San Diego, however they have not been allowed to participate in the transition program at Miramar, yet.

Marines receive routine training that is relevent to law enforcement. “The police department is quasi-military and the transition from the military on to the force is compatible. (Marines) learn discipline from boot camp on. They also know how to march and a knowledge of firearms,” said Gavin Stieglitz, police officer Los

Angeles Police Department. Gavin added, “They are also used to PT and (military) tactics. It is the perfect stepping stone.”

There may be benefits for military members transitioning into police departments as well. For example, if a Marine were called up to active duty and the pay they were making as an officer was more than they were making at their pay grade the department pays the difference. For a better idea of other benefits offered to Marines transitioning out of service, inquire about what each department has to offer at the Transition Assistance Office.

## AWARE

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fessional help and support from her friends, her return to normal will be hastened.

Although she will never forget the assault, she will recover.

What are some of the actions women can take to reduce the chances of being raped?

First, in intimate relationships with men, women have the right to assertively set and hold sexual boundaries on what is OK with them and what is not.

A woman can and should trust her own feelings and intuitions about what is safe for her. If it feels wrong to her, it probably is. Second, in the immediate threat

of a sexual assault, being assertive is more likely to be helpful than crying or pleading. If necessary, scream and run away, and fight back if at all possible. A potential victim can tell her attacker she has HIV or herpes.

In cases of violence or threatened violence, submission may be the best way to avoid serious injury.

Whether a rape is perpetrated by a stranger or by an acquaintance or by a dating partner or by a spouse, it is a crime. Rape is an act of violence done by a man who wants to have power over a woman. It is not about sex or passion.

For more information, you may speak to a counselor or the victim advocate by calling Marine and Family Services at (858) 577-6585.

## FLY

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purchasing their own plane if they want one,” said McNerney. “There are a couple of really good hobby shops in the area that many of our members frequent to buy parts or whole plane kits. We welcome family out at the field here too.”

The club has come a long way since the Cedar Fire in 2003. In addition to setting the foundation for a new canopy, more than 30 tons of fire debris has been removed from the restored airfield, the maintenance shed has been repaired; a new amplifier

system has been installed in addition to many other improvements, according to Lewis.

“Many of our members and club guests donated funds and spent a considerable amount of time to help restore the airfield to meet AMA guidelines,” said Lewis. “They really put in a lot of hard work and this summer we hope to see a lot of new people out here. It is a real friendly atmosphere out here and a lot of fun.”

For more information on the Miramar Radio Control Flyers’ Club, call (858) 560-7650 or visit [www.mccsmiramar.com/RCFlyers/MCRF.htm](http://www.mccsmiramar.com/RCFlyers/MCRF.htm).



## Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information contact 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com)

**Friday:**  
4:30 p.m. Soul Plane (R)  
6:30 p.m. Harry Potter/Prison of Azkaban (PG)  
9:15 p.m. The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
1 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG)  
6:30 p.m. The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13)  
8:45 p.m. Raising Helen (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1 p.m. New York Minute (PG)  
6:30 p.m Van Helsing (PG-13)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. The Stepford Wives (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
2 p.m. Garfield (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Raising Helen (PG-13)

Presentations and time subject to change.

## PME policy change

Professional Military Education requirements for the Fiscal Year 2005 staff non-commissioned officer selection boards have been changed.

The requirement for PME has been waived for selection to gunnery sergeant. The change is only temporary.

For more information reference ALMAR 035/04.

## Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist  
**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service  
**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m.Roman Catholic Daily Mass  
**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

## Two-year tours begin

Marine Administrative Message 267/04 initiated the first phase of the III Marine Expeditionary Force assignment policy.

Single first term Marines will be assigned to Okinawa and Iwakuni for a term of 24 months. Single first term Marines will still be able to be sent to Okinawa and Iwakuni even if they do not have sufficient time left on their contract.

## Change of Command

### VMA-542

Lt. Col. Chester Arnold Jr. relinquished Marine Attack Squadron 542 to Lt. Col.Russel Sanborn in a change of command ceremony June 25 at Al Asad, Iraq.

**Send your change of command notices to the Flight Jacket editor at [mcmeence@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:mcmeence@miramar.usmc.mil). Include all who, what, where and when information.**

The policy will remain in effect until the revised III MEF and MCBJ policy is published by Headquarters Marine Corps.

## Modified gate hours

The East Gate is now closed from 12-5 a.m. daily.

Flightline gates 5 and 22 will be fully automated with all access being granted through card swipes until notified otherwise.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are now taking place at the Marine Corps Community Services Counseling Center in building 2274.

The classes will we be held Monday through Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

All active duty personnel, retirees, family members and DoD employees can participate.

For more information call 577-7285.

## Postal overload

Remember to check your military mail box daily and to check out with the post of- fice when going on leave or TAD for 15 or more days at a time.

ADS